

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2013-199-WS - ORDER NO. 2014-518

JUNE 24, 2014

IN RE: Application of United Utility Companies, Incorporated for Adjustment of Rates and Charges) ORDER CORRECTING) TARIFF PROVISIONS) AND APPROVING) CORRECTED TARIFF
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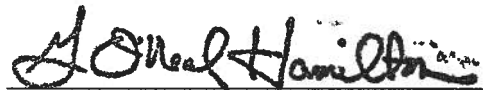
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of United Utility Companies, Inc. (“United” or “the Company”) for an Order correcting certain tariff provisions.

It appears that, when Order No. 2013-909 (A) was issued correcting the water meter charge, the Order inadvertently approved incorrect tariff charges which had been mistakenly submitted for pumping and tampering. Order No. 2013-909 (A) approved a pumping charge for the solids interceptor tanks of a flat charge of \$150, when the parties had agreed upon and intended a request for approval of a minimum charge of \$150. Further, Order No. 2013-909 (A) approved a tampering charge on both water and sewer provisions of an amount not to exceed \$250, when the parties had agreed on a flat \$250. All parties agree that these corrections need to be made, and that they should apply with equal force to Crusader/Mountie, LLC to whom United transferred part of its sewer system under the authority of Order No. 2014-437. The parties have submitted a new proposed tariff which makes these corrections.

Obviously, Order No. 2013-909 (A) inadvertently approved pumping and tampering charges that were incorrect. Accordingly, we hereby approve the pumping charge of a minimum of \$150, and the tampering charge of a flat \$250. We also approve the corrected tariff showing the corrected charges, which is attached hereto as Order Exhibit No. 1. We also hold that the corrections apply to Crusader/Mountie, LLC.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikiya Hall, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)

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SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES

WATER

1. Monthly Charges

Residential

Monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, mobile home or apartment unit:

Basic Facilities Charge	\$21.00 per unit
Commodity Charge	\$10.77 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft.

Commercial

Base Facilities Charge	\$21.00 per unit
Commodity Charge	\$10.77 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft.

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, offices, industry, etc.

When it is impractical to meter each unit separately because of the method of water line installation utilized by the developer or owner, service will be provided through a single meter, and consumption of all units will be averaged; a bill will be calculated based on that average and the result multiplied by the number of units served by a single meter.

For the convenience of the owner, the Utility will bill a tenant in a multi-unit building, consisting of four or more residential units, which is served by a master water meter or a single water connection. However, in such cases all arrearages must be satisfied before service will be provided to a new tenant or before interrupted service will be restored. Failure of an owner to pay for services rendered to a tenant in these circumstances may result in service interruptions.

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2. Non-Recurring Charges

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|--|----------|
| A) Water service connection charge per single-family equivalent* | \$100.00 |
| B) Plant impact fee per single-family equivalent* | \$400.00 |
| C) Water Meter - 5/8 inches x 3/4 meter | \$ 35.00 |

All 5/8 inch x 3/4 inch water meters shall meet the Utility's standards and shall be installed by the Utility. A one-time meter fee of \$35.00 shall be due upon installation for those locations where no 5/8 inch x 3/4 inch meter has been provided by a developer to the Utility.

For the installation of all other meters, the customer shall be billed for the Utility's actual cost of installation. All such meters shall meet the Utility's standards and be installed by the Utility unless the Utility directs otherwise.

The non-recurring charges listed above are minimum charges and apply even if the equivalency rating of the non-residential customer is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating of a non-residential customer is greater than one (1), then the proper charge may be obtained by multiplying the equivalency rating by the appropriate fee. These charges apply and are due at the time new service is applied for, or at the time connection to the water system is requested.

3. Account Set-Up and Disconnection Charges

- a. Customer Account Charge - for new customers only \$30.00
- b. Disconnection Charges: In addition to any other charges that may be due, in those cases where a customer's service has been disconnected for any reason as set forth in Commission Rule R.103-732.5, and the customer has been found to have vacated his premises or the customer has shown his intent to vacate his premises and the imposition of a reconnection charge is not feasible, a disconnection fee shall be due in the amount of forty dollars (\$40.00) and shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service.
- c. Tampering Charge: In the event the Utility's equipment, water mains, water lines, meters, curb stops, service lines, valves or other facilities have been damaged or tampered with by a customer, the Utility may charge a \$250 tampering fee to the customer responsible for the damage to the Utility's equipment. The tampering fee shall be paid in full prior to the Utility re-establishing water service or continuing the provision of water service.

4. Billing Cycle

Recurring charges will be billed monthly in arrears. Nonrecurring charges will be billed and collected in advance of service being provided.

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5. Late Payment Charges
Any balance unpaid within twenty-five (25) days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half percent (1 ½%) for each month, or any part of a month, that said payment is late.
6. Cross-Connection Inspection
Any customer installing, permitting to be installed, or maintaining any cross connection between the Utility's water system and any other non-public water system, sewer or a line from any container of liquids or other substances, must install an approved back-flow prevention device in accordance with 24A S.C. Code Ann. Regs. R.61-58.7.F, as may be amended from time to time. Such a customer shall annually have such cross connection inspected by a licensed certified tester and provide to Utility a copy of a written inspection report and testing results submitted by the certified tester in accordance with 24A S.C. Code Ann. Regs. R.61-58.7.F, as may be amended from time to time. Said report and results must be provided by the customer to the Utility within 30 days of inspection. If a customer fails to comply with the requirement to perform annual inspections, the Utility may disconnect water service after 30 days' written notice. The Utility shall provide affected customers with an advanced annual notification of such certification requirement.
7. Electronic Billing and Electronic Payment
If requested by the customer in writing and within the capabilities of the Utility, the Utility may provide an electronic bill to the customer on the Utility's website, in lieu of mailing a paper copy. The electronic bill shall contain the same content and be presented in the same or a similar format as a bill delivered to the customer pursuant to Commission Rule R. 103-732.2 as may be amended from time to time. Late payment charges will not be triggered until twenty-five (25) days after the Utility issues the electronic bill and it leaves the control of the Utility or its billing agent. The Utility must provide notice to the customer that the bill form is available for review within twenty-four hours of its issuance and the web address of its location.
8. Construction Standards
The Utility requires all construction to be performed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards, at a minimum. The Utility from time to time may require that more stringent construction standards be followed.
9. Extension of Utility Service Lines and Mains
The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to connect to its water system. However, anyone or entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately sized and constructed main or utility service line from his/her/its premises to any appropriate connection point, pay the appropriate fees and charges as set forth in this rate schedule, and comply with the guidelines and standards hereof, shall not be denied service unless water supply is unavailable or unless the South Carolina Department of Health and

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Environmental Control or other government entity has for any reason restricted the Utility from adding additional customers to the serving water system. In no event will the Utility be required to construct additional water supply capacity to serve any customer or entity without an agreement acceptable to the Utility first having been reached for the payment of all costs associated with adding water supply capacity to the affected water system.

*A Single Family Equivalent (SFE) shall be determined by using the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities 25 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-67 Appendix A, as may be amended from time to time. Where applicable, such guidelines shall be used for determination of the appropriate monthly service and tap fee.

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SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES

SEWER

1. Monthly Charges

Residential

Monthly charge per single-family
house, condominium, villa,
or apartment unit:

\$69.96 per unit

Mobile Homes – monthly charge

\$51.39 per unit

Commercial

Monthly charge per single-family
equivalent*

\$69.96

Charge for Sewage Collection Service Only

When sewage is collected by the Utility and transferred to a government body or agency,
or other entity for treatment, the Utility's rates are as follows:

Residential

Monthly charge per single-family
house, condominium, mobile home,
or apartment unit

\$36.24 per unit

Commercial

Monthly charge per single-family
equivalent*

\$36.24 per unit

The Utility will also charge for treatment services provided by the government body or agency or other entity. The rates imposed or charged by the government body or agency or other entity providing treatment will be charged to the Utility's affected customers on a pro rata basis, without markup. Where the Utility is required under the terms of the 201/208 Plan to interconnect to the sewage treatment system of a government body or agency or other entity and tap/connection/impact fees are imposed by that entity, such tap/connection/impact fees will be charged to the Utility's affected customers on a pro rata basis, without markup.

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, offices, industry, etc.

The Utility will, for the convenience of the owner, bill a tenant in a multi-unit building, consisting of four or more residential units, which is served by a master water meter or a

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single water connection. However, in such cases all arrearages must be satisfied before service will be provided to a new tenant or before interrupted service will be restored. Failure of an owner to pay for services rendered to a tenant in these circumstances may result in service interruptions.

Solids Interceptor Tanks

For all customers receiving sewage collection service through an approved solids interceptor tank, the following additional charges shall apply:

A. Pumping Charge

At such time as the Utility determines through its inspection that excessive solids have accumulated at the interceptor tank, the Utility will arrange for pumping the tank, and the actual cost to the Utility for pumping the tank will be billed to the customer; the minimum pumping charge shall be \$150.00. The cost of the Utility's pumping charge will be included as a separate item in the next regular billing to the customer.

B. Pump Repair or Replacement Charge

If a separate pump is required to transport the customer's sewage from solids interceptor tank to the Utility's sewage collection system, the Utility will arrange to have this pump repaired or replaced as required and will include the cost of such repair or replacement as a separate item in the next regular billing to the customer and may be paid for over a one-year period.

C. Visual Inspection Port

In order for a customer who uses a solids interceptor tank to receive sewage service from the Utility or to continue to receive such service, the customer shall install at the customer's expense a visual inspection port which will allow for observation of the contents of the solids interceptor tank and extraction of test samples therefrom. Failure to provide such visual inspection port after timely notice of not less than thirty (30) days shall be just cause for interruption of service until a visual inspection port has been installed.

2. Non-recurring Charges

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| A) Sewer service connection charge per single-family equivalent* | \$100.00 |
| B) Plant impact fee per single-family equivalent* | \$400.00 |

The non-recurring charges listed above are minimum charges and apply even if the equivalency rating of a non-residential customer is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating of a non-residential customer is greater than one (1), then the proper charge may be obtained by multiplying the equivalency rating by the appropriate fee. These charges

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apply and are due at the time new service is applied for, or at the time connection to the sewer system is requested.

3. Notification. Account Set-Up and Disconnection Charges

- a. Notification Fee: A fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be charged to each customer per notice to whom the Utility mails the notice as required by Commission Rule R.103-535.1 prior to service being discontinued. This fee assesses a portion of the clerical and mailing costs of such notices to the customers creating the cost.
- b. Customer Account Charge: A fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) shall be charged as a one-time fee to defray the costs of initiating service. This charge will be waived if the customer is also a water customer.
- c. Disconnection Charges: In addition to any other charges that may be due, in those cases where a customer's service has been disconnected for any reason as set forth in Commission Rule R.103-532.4, the customer is found to have vacated his premises or the customer has shown his intent to vacate his premises and the imposition of a reconnection charge is not feasible, a disconnection fee in the amount of \$500.00 shall be due at the time the customer disconnects service. Where an elder valve has been previously installed, a disconnection fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) shall be charged.
- d. Tampering Charge: In the event the Utility's equipment, sewage pipes, meters, curb stops, service lines, elder valves or other facilities have been damaged, tampered with or molested by a customer, the Utility may charge a customer in any way responsible for the damage a fee of \$250.00 to repair the equipment.

4. Billing Cycle

Recurring charges will be billed monthly in arrears. Non-recurring charges will be billed and collected in advance of service being provided.

5. Late Payment Charges

Any balance unpaid within twenty-five (25) days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half percent (1 ½%) for each month, or any part of a month, that said payment is late.

6. Electronic Billing and Electronic Payment

If requested by the customer in writing and within the capabilities of the Utility, the Utility may, in lieu of mailing a paper copy, provide an electronic bill to the customer on the Utility's website. The electronic bill shall contain the same content and be presented in the same or a similar format as a bill delivered to the customer pursuant to Commission Rule R. 103-732.1 as may be amended from time to time. Late payment charges will not be triggered until twenty-five (25) days after the Utility issues the electronic bill and it leaves the control of the Utility or its billing agent. The Utility must

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provide notice to the customer that the bill form is available for review within twenty-four hours of its issuance and the web address of its location.

7. Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Guidelines

The Utility will not accept or treat any substance or material that has been defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC") as a toxic pollutant, hazardous waste, or hazardous substance, including pollutants falling within the provisions of 40 CFR 129.4 and 401.15. Additionally, pollutants or pollutant properties subject to 40 CFR 403.5 and 403.6 are to be processed according to pretreatment standards applicable to such pollutants or pollutant properties, and such standards constitute the Utility's minimum pretreatment standards. Any person or entity introducing any such prohibited or untreated materials into the Company's sewer system may have service interrupted without notice until such discharges cease, and shall be liable to the Utility for all damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Utility as a result thereof.

8. Construction Standards

The Utility requires all construction to be performed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards, at a minimum. The Utility from time to time may require that more stringent construction standards be followed.

9. Extension of Utility Service Lines and Mains

The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to connect to its sewer system. However, anyone or entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately sized and constructed main or utility service line from his/her/its premises to any appropriate connection point, pay the appropriate fees and charges as set forth in this rate schedule, and comply with the guidelines and standards hereof, shall not be denied service unless sewer capacity is unavailable or unless the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control or other government entity has for any reason restricted the Utility from adding additional customers to the serving sewer system. In no event will the Utility be required to construct additional sewer treatment capacity to serve any customer or entity without an agreement acceptable to the Utility first having been reached for the payment of all costs associated with adding wastewater treatment capacity to the affected sewer system.

*A Single Family Equivalent (SFE) shall be determined by using the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities 25 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-67 Appendix A, as may be amended from time to time. Where applicable, such guidelines shall be used for determination of the appropriate monthly service and tap fee.